

APPENDIX 2

PUBLIC PROCESS SUMMARY

The assessment began with outreach to the Gualala River Watershed Council's Watershed Coordinator. The GRWC's mission statement (Appendix) provided a framework to compare the goals of the program with the goals of landowners and interested public in the watershed. A short presentation of the NCWAP was done by Water Quality and Resources Agency on September 19, 2000, was followed by input from the audience, which provided direction on the process of assessment, especially regarding interactions with the Council and landowners. Numerous small meetings with the Coordinator and others ensued as details were discussed regarding access, data sharing, and the assessment process. Individual agencies presented their approaches to the assessment, and the Project Lead provided occasional updates on the progress of the assessment to the GRWC. Interactions with private landowners as well as industrial timber landowners occurred on an as-needed basis.

The primary focus of the GRWC is "...to communicate about the ecology and land uses in the Gualala River watershed aimed at ..." promoting educational opportunities about watershed functions, encouraging stewardship of the natural resources, maintaining and improving watershed resource values, influencing land use decisions, and addressing the TMDL, while building upon existing sound resource management efforts and "maintaining the economic viability of landowners, resource management and recreational uses." The full mission statement is reproduced at the end of this summary.

The NCWAP thrust to assess conditions and provide recommendations for improvements, especially with respect to anadromous salmonids, is supportive of the GRWC's mission. Primary concerns expressed by the Council were related to:

1. Access – members asked that the agencies coordinate on requests for access to avoid asking a landowner for access many times, as well as multiple trips by agencies
2. Access – the Council suggested that NCWAP go through the Coordinator for access requests
3. Field presence – there was concern that agency staff would take enforcement actions if they observed a problem on private property
4. TMDL – most of the assessment would be after the development of the TMDL for the watershed and concern was expressed regarding coordination with the TMDL and timing
5. Involvement – the Council wanted to be involved in the assessment, but recognized the need for NCWAP to meet independently initially
6. Involvement – the Council also expressed a desire to assist in data collection and analysis, as well as have an opportunity to review the assessment in draft form

NCWAP enjoyed a healthy relationship with the GRWC and responded to those concerns as follows:

1. and 2. NCWAP agencies and programs coordinated on access requests to the extent possible. It was necessary for separate requests to be made in some instances due to the timing and areas that different agencies needed to access, e.g., DMG needed access first for groundtruthing maps of geologic and erosional features, DFG needed access to stream corridors throughout the entire watershed later in the summer. NCWAP was in close contact with the Coordinator during access requests, the Coordinator providing information on landowner willingness and contact. The DFG even contracted with a GRWC member to arrange access in the South Fork subwatershed. While the process had a few problems, they were minor and easily resolved.
3. Regulatory staff explained the discretion they have in taking enforcement, and that landowners providing access would be contacted and given opportunity to resolve any blatant and/or obvious intentional violations first. Minor problems noted on a landowner's property would be brought to their attention, however no enforcement was contemplated. No enforcement actions were taken as a result of NCWAP field presence.

4. To the extent we were able, the TMDL Development Team of the NCWQCB and the NCWAP coordinated on data collection and analysis. A considerable amount of the analysis performed for the TMDL Technical Support Document was used in the assessment, and appears in this assessment report.
3. and 6. The NCWAP involved interested GRWC members in the data collection and assessment process, sharing equipment and expertise, and data products in draft form. GRWC members assisted in data collection, data analysis, and review of products, contributing a significant amount of information and analysis to the process.

The NCWAP expressed the desire to have contributors review the draft assessment to ensure their data were used appropriately and to provide additional input and analysis. The report production schedule was revised to allow the GRWC and other contributors the opportunity to review the draft assessment prior to internal agency review. This provided an opportunity for contributors to respond to the NCWAP on issues of data use and interpretation, and conclusions drawn from that.

• **GRWC Mission Statement – February 2001**

The Gualala River Watershed Council (GRWC) is a forum of Gualala River landowners, resource managers, agencies, and interested parties—a place to communicate about the ecology and land uses in the Gualala River watershed aimed at achieving the following goals:

- building upon existing efforts that support sound resource management,
- promoting educational opportunities about watershed functions,
- Maintain and improve watershed resource values,
- Encourage stewardship of the natural resources,
- Influence land use decisions in the watershed,
- Address the Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) “Water Quality Attainment Strategy” (TMDL), while maintaining the economic viability of landowners, resource management and recreational uses.

The GRWC will work towards attaining these goals by identifying and defining problems to address watershed assessment, developing an enhancement plan, and implementing solutions on a prioritized basis using sound science, common sense, and a cooperative, collaborative approach to maximize all the goals of all the parties to the extent possible.

The more widely attended meetings:

September 19, 2000 – initial rollout of the NCWAP assessment for the Gualala, including significant input from the GRWC

December 20, 2000 – meeting with large timber landowners about the upcoming TMDL and NCWAP assessment and data sharing and access for field work

January 16, 2001 – DMG and CDF presentations on their analysis and products for the NCWAP assessments

February 2, 2001 – NCWAP representatives and Gualala Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Ukiah

October 16, 2001 – update on the NCWAP assessment process, including some analysis products